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Sept 16, 2004

USPTO Application Number: 10/606,254
Art Unit: 3676
Examiner: Suzanne Dino Barrett

As per your Office Action Summary (mail date of June 23, 2004) please find enclosed:

- Corrected Drawings as per your detailed action statements (2 PAGES)
- Corrected Specification as per your detailed action statements (26 PAGES)

With regard to the Claim Rejections, the examiner has contended that claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(e) as being anticipated by Vito 6,490,897 and under 35 USC 103(b) as being anticipated by either Fain 4,304,110 or Pearson 4,819,461 or Roberts 4,582,176 or Brown 4,094,173. The examiner also contends that claims 1 - 9, 11, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Farrow 4,696,172. Furthermore the examiner has contended that claims 16, 17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vito 6,490,897 or Fain 4,304,110 or Pearson 4,819,461 or Roberts 4,582,176 or Brown 4,094,173. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farrow 4,696,172 in view of Vito 6,490,897. Claims 12, 14, 15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farrow 4,696,172 in view of Alicea 5,724,838. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farrow 4,696,172 in view of Rekemeyer 6,058,749. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farrow 4,696,172 in view of Alicea 5,724,838.

I submit that claims 1 through 21 are novel over all of the disclosures of documents cited by the examiner for the following reasons:

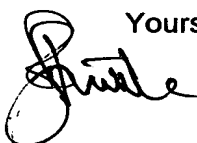
The examiner will note that claim 1 includes the essential requirement of the vehicle security device comprising an elongate member, which is sized such that it extends into the area normally occupied by a driver when seated in the vehicle in a conventional driving position. The examiner's attention is drawn to page 3, line 16 to page 4, line 13 and page 5, line 16 to line 21 of the description of the application, wherein the meaning of the term "area normally occupied by a driver when seated within the vehicle in the conventional driving position" is exemplified as referring to the location of the upper body of a driver. Indeed, as this section of the description illustrates, a "potential thief is prevented from casually sitting within the vehicle whilst attempting to remove the security device" and "the thief must stand outside the vehicle and lean into the foot-well to remove the security device during which the thief will be very conspicuous". I submit that none of the cited documents disclose a security device that extends into the area normally occupied by the driver as claimed in Claim 1 of my application. Conversely, all of these cited documents describe a device which can be removed from a locked position whilst the driver, or potential thief, is positioned in the conventional driving position.

Accordingly I submit that claim 1 is novel over the cited documents. Furthermore I submit that since claims 2 to 20 are dependent, either directly or indirectly upon novel claim 1, they too are novel over the cited documents as well.

Finally, I submit that claim 21 as a dependent claim is, by definition of being dependent on aforementioned claims, not indefinite and the contents of claim 21 is also necessarily novel over the cited prior documents for the same reasons as mentioned in support of claim 1.

In summary, I submit that the above application relates to a single invention that is novel over the cited prior art. I look forward to receiving the examiner's confirmation that the above application is now in a suitable form for grant of patent.

Yours faithfully,

 on behalf of V G Dix .

V G Dix